

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0951
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBSSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN ELECTION RESULTS AS OF MAY 10

REF : (A) JAKARTA 5897 (DTG 060930Z MAY 77),
(B) JAKARTA 5816 (DTG 050940Z MAY 77)

1. SUMMARY. THE GOLKAR PERCENTAGE HAS INCHED UP
GLACIALLY THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, AS THE SLOW COUNTING OF
REMAINING BALLOTS CONTINUES. A GOVERNMENT-ORDERED RECOUNT
OF DISPUTED BALLOTS IN EAST JAVA MAY ADD UP TO A MILLION
LEGAL VOTES TO THE TOTALS, BUT IS NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE
THE VOTE SPLIT AMONG THE PARTIES SIGNIFICANTLY. THE
PPP IS REPORTEDLY UNDECIDED AS TO THE NEXT STEP IT SHOULD
TAKE, WHILE THE PDI HAS DISPATCHED SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS IN
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PREPARATION FOR ISSUING A STATEMENT ON ITS ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE PAST FOUR DAYS, AS THE COUNTING OF RESIDUAL
VOTES FROM OUTLYING DISTRICTS SLOWLY PROCEEDED, GOLKAR
HAS ADDED marginally TO ITS PERCENTAGE. ACCORDING TO THE
LATEST RETURNS, GOLKAR HAS 62.13 PERCENT (38.8 MILLION

VOTES), PPP 29.21 PERCENT (18.2 MILLION VOTES) AND PDI 8.66 PERCENT (5.4 MILLION VOTES). SHOULD THIS TREND CONTINUE, GOLKAR IS LIKELY TO END UP WITH ALMOST THE SAME VOTE PERCENTAGE IT ACHIEVED IN 1971 (62.80 PERCENT).

3. THE GOVERNMENT, RESPONDING TO PPP CHARGES OF VOTING AND COUNTING IRREGULARITIES IN EAST JAVA, HAS ORDERED A SPECIAL RECOUNT OF DISPUTED BALLOTS THERE. IT APPEARS THAT ELECTION OFFICIALS IN EAST JAVA WERE EXTREMELY STRICT IN APPLYING THE COUNTING RULES AND THAT, AS A RESULT, LARGE NUMBERS OF BALLOTS OF MARGINAL VALIDITY WERE THROWN OUT. JAKARTA OFFICIALS HAVE NOW CLARIFIED THE COUNTING RULES SO THAT THE BULK OF THESE WILL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTED AS LEGAL IN THE RECOUNT, ADDING AS MANY AS A MILLION NEW VOTES TO THE TOTAL CAST. (EVEN IN WEST JAVA, WHERE WELL OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE CAST LEGAL BALLOTS AND WHERE THERE WERE NO SERIOUS CHARGES THAT LARGE NUMBERS WERE ILLEGALLY DENIED THE RIGHT TO VOTE, MORE THAN 400 THOUSANDS BALLOTS WERE ORIGINALLY DECLARED INVALID). BASED ON FIRST-HAND OBSERVATION OF COUNTING BY CONSULATE SURABAYA OFFICERS AND A SAMPLE "REVIEW OF DISPUTED BALLOTS" DONE IN EAST JAVA AND REPORTED IN JAKARTA'S RESPECTED DAILY KOMPAS, HOWEVER, THE NEWLY ACCEPTED BALLOTS WILL LIKELY SPLIT OUT AMONG THE PARTIES MUCH LIKE THE CURRENT TOTAL, YIELDING IN ABSOLUTE TERMS AN EVEN LARGER GOLKAR LEAD. ONE POINT NOT YET CLEAR, BUT LIKELY TO BE CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE RECOUNT WILL STILL PPP COMPLAINTS, IS WHETHER THE PARTIES WILL BE PERMITTED TO WITNESS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECOUNT. THE INDONESIAN PRESS HAS PUBLISHED CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS ON THIS POINT.

4. MEANWHILE IN CENTRAL JAVA, ALTHOUGH LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE DID NOT VOTE AND SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF BALLOTS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN INVALIDATED THERE, THE GOVERNOR HAS DECIDED THAT NO REVIEW/RECOUNT IS "NEEDED." DESPITE A LEVEL OF VOTER PARTICIPATION UNDER 85 PERCENT, THE GOVERNOR SAID A MEETING OF ALL THE BUPATIS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS FROM THE PROVINCE CONVINCED HIM THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO IRREGULARITIES, AS CLAIMED BY PPP, PDI AND JOGJAKARTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

5. PPP CHAIRMAN (AND PARLIAMENT VICE CHAIRMAN) DJELANI NARO TOLD US TODAY THAT THE PPP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HAS NOT YET AGREED ON A POST-ELECTION STRATEGY. STATEMENTS OF ELECTION IRREGULARITIES ARE BEING COLLECTED FROM LOCAL PPP LEADERS, NARO SAID, AND HIS PARTY WILL PROBABLY CONTEST THE CENTRAL JAVA, WEST JAVA, AND PERHAPS

MALUKU RESULTS, AS WELL AS THOSE OF EAST JAVA AND SOUTH SULAWESI. SHOULD CURRENTLY AGREED RECOUNTS APPEAR THEMSELVES QUESTIONABLE AND SHOULD THE PRESIDENT REFUSE PPP REQUESTS FOR OTHER INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOUNTS, NARO SAID HE WOULD NEVERTHELESS ADVOCATE PPP ACQUIESCENCE IN THE ELECTION RESULTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE TREND IS TOWARD FREER ELECTIONS AND PPP SHOULD USE ITS POSITION IN PARLIAMENT TO PREPARE FOR 1978. NARO INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT OTHER PPP LEADERS ARE PROPOSING A TOUGHER LINE, AND HE HIMSELF APPLAUDED YOUNG PPP LEADERS' CRITICISM OF PARTY GENERAL CHAIRMAN MINTAREDJA FOR IMPLYING THAT HIS PARTY HAD "GOTTEN ALL IT COULD REASONABLY EXPECT" OUT OF THE ELECTIONS. IN CONTRAST TO ANOTHER PROMINENT PPP CANDIDATE (REF B), NARO SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF FORCING CABINET CHANGES BEFORE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PPP WILL DEMAND MORE MINISTERIAL POSITIONS AND WILL PERHAPS SEEK TO ELECT A NEW VICE PRESIDENT IF SULTAN HAMENGKU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUWONO APPEARS PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO SERVE.

6. PDI, WHICH HAS SUPPORTED MANY OF THE PPP CHARGES BUT KEPT A MUCH LOWER PROFILE, HAS DISPATCHED ITS OWN INVESTIGATING TEAMS TO JAVA AND NUSATENGARA. PDI IS TAKING A SPECIAL LOOK AT BALI, WHERE IT CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF WIDESPREAD GOLKAR/GOVERNMENT REPRESSION. LIKE THE PPP, PDI HAS PROMISED A STATEMENT ON ITS "ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ELECTIONS" FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF ITS INVESTIGATORS.

7. COMMENT. THE GOVERNMENT, ASSISTED BY THE CONFUSION SURROUNDING SOME PATENTLY ABSURD AND OFTEN SELF-CONTRADICTORY PPP CHARGES ABOUT THE SITUATION IN EAST JAVA, APPEARS TO HAVE FINESSED A POTENTIALLY VOLATILE SITUATION, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, BY GREEING TO THE RECOUNT. IF PARTY WITNESSES ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE, DENYING THE PPP A READY "CAUSE," MOSLEMS MAY HAVE TROUBLE REGAINING THE "WRONGED PARTY" FERVOR SO EVIDENT LAST WEEK.
NEWSOM

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